

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A filter apparatus for use with a pump, the filter apparatus comprising:
 - a filter element;
 - a supply line for delivery of a flushing medium;
 - a filter basket at least partially enclosed in the filter element, wherein the filter basket comprises:
 - a manifold, comprising:
 - a first member having a opening so as to receive the supply line;
 - a second member having a plurality of apertures;
 - the first and second members defining an internal chamber fluidly connecting the flushing medium supply opening with the plurality of apertures;
 - a blocking member positioned in the internal chamber and configured to rotatably traverse a groove in the second member and periodically block a flow of flushing fluid from the flushing medium supply opening to the plurality of apertures; and
 - a plurality of tubes at least partially enclosed in the filter element, wherein each tube of the plurality of tubes extends from one of the plurality of apertures and includes a plurality of perforations such that a flushing medium may flow from the supply line through the internal chamber into the plurality of tubes and through the perforations to backflush the filter element.
2. The filter apparatus of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of perforations is configured to produce a spray that interacts with a spray produced by at least one perforation included in an adjacent one of the plurality of tubes to produce a combined spray directed into the filter element.
3. The filter apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the groove defines an oval shape.
4. The filter apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the second member defines an oval shape.
5. The filter apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the second member defines an oval shape.

6. The filter apparatus of Claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of apertures in the second member is within the groove

7. The filter apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the second member further comprises a plurality of channels fluidly connecting the groove with each of the plurality of apertures in the second member.

8. The filter apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the supply line is coupled to a vent line coupling the first internal chamber to the atmosphere.

9. The filter apparatus of Claim 1, wherein in the vent line is configured to create a pressure differential across the filter element.

10. A filter apparatus for use with a pump, the filter apparatus comprising:
- a filter element;
 - a first supply line for delivery of a flushing medium;
 - a second supply line for delivery of an enhancing material;
 - a filter basket at least partially enclosed in the filter element, and wherein the filter basket comprises:
 - a manifold, comprising:
 - a first member having a first opening so as to receive the first supply line and a second opening so as to receive the second supply line;
 - a second member having a first plurality of apertures and a second plurality of apertures;
 - the first and second members defining a first internal chamber fluidly connecting the first opening with the first plurality of apertures;
 - the first and second members defining a second internal chamber fluidly connecting the second opening with the second plurality of apertures;
 - a first plurality of tubes at least partially enclosed in the filter element, wherein each tube of the first plurality of tubes extends from one of the first plurality of apertures and includes a first plurality of perforations such that a flushing medium may flow from the first supply line through the internal chamber into the first plurality of tubes and through each of the first plurality of perforations to backflush the filter element; and

a second plurality of tubes at least partially surrounding the filter element, wherein each tube of the second plurality of tubes extends from one of the second plurality of apertures and includes a second plurality of perforations such that an enhancing material may flow from the second supply line through the internal chamber into the second plurality of tubes and through each of the second plurality of perforations.

11. The filter apparatus of Claim 10, further comprising a second filter element at least partially enclosing the second plurality of tubes.

12. The filter apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the enhancing material comprises a flocculent.

13. The filter apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the enhancing material comprises a disinfection agent.

14. The filter apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the first supply line is coupled to a vent line coupling the second internal chamber to the atmosphere.

15. The filter apparatus of Claim 14, wherein the vent line is configured to create a pressure differential across the filter element.

16. The filter apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the enhancing material comprises a coagulant.

17. The filter apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the coagulant comprises iron particles.

18. The filter apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the enhancing material comprises a viscosity reducing agent.

19. The filter apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the viscosity reducing agent comprises steam.

20. The filter apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the filter apparatus is configured to filter oil.

21. The filter apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the filter apparatus is configured to filter air.

22. A method of filtering a fluid comprising:
filtering a first flow of fluid through a filter;

backflushing the filter with a second flow of fluid; and

introducing a third flow of fluid comprising an enhancing material to a region in proximity to the filter wherein the backflushing is performed independently of the act of introducing.

23. The method of Claim 22, further comprising exposing the first flow of fluid to atmospheric pressure.

24. The method of Claim 22, wherein introducing the enhancing material comprises introducing a flocculent.

25. The filter apparatus of Claim 22, wherein introducing the enhancing material comprises introducing a disinfection agent.

26. The filter apparatus of Claim 22, wherein introducing the enhancing material comprises introducing a coagulant.

27. A filter apparatus comprising:

means for filtering a first flow of fluid;

means for backflushing the filter with a second flow of fluid; and

means for introducing a third flow fluid comprising an enhancing material to a region in proximity to the means for filtering wherein the means for back flushing is fluidly separated from the means for introducing.

28. The filter apparatus of Claim 27, further comprising means for exposing the first flow of fluid to atmospheric pressure.

29. The filter apparatus of Claim 27, wherein the means for introducing the enhancing material is configured to introduce a flocculent.

30. The filter apparatus of Claim 27, wherein the means for introducing the enhancing material is configured to introduce a disinfection agent.

31. The filter apparatus of Claim 27, wherein the means for introducing the enhancing material is configured to introduce a coagulant.